

Meeting Notes
VEG MOU Core Group with CCRISP Focus
August 21, 2001

Purpose:

This meeting was convened on CCRISP's behalf, to discuss ongoing land cover/wetlands mapping efforts around the State to get a better sense of which agencies are working on what major land cover/wetlands mapping efforts and where, the methods being used, what gaps exist, how they all fit into the CBC Vegetation MOU, and how the efforts help CCRISP "create" a relatively current statewide Land Cover map.

Brief presentations were made by USFS, DFG, BOR, DOC

USFS Presentation:

- long-term, low cost approx 50-100K scale on 5 year cycle
- Uses:
 - track forest health trends
 - changes in forest structure
 - assess cumulative impacts
 - map hazardous fuels and wildlife habitat
 - id temp or permanent land cover changes
- mapping includes "life form", WHR, CALVEG types, crown closure, over story, tree size
- classify life forms first, then deal with WHR types, closure, size.
- Polygon based, not pixel-based. 2.5-acre min map unit
- unsupervised classification, use aerial photos as guides to manually correct.
- dominant veg is predictive using life form, slope, aspect, and elevation, also geology, climate, soils, distance from streams, etc.
- update coverage via change detection, use changes to guide revisions to map.
- mapping costs - 8-20 cents per acre, usually 15 cents. Approach is best for large area mapping. Not approp, cost effective at local level. Map updates costs 4-8 cents per acre (half of which is imagery/photo costs)
- half of costs for lifeform and WHR classification, less than 1/4 on size and canopy classif. field work is less than 1/4 of total costs.
- Air photos cost \$10-75K per million acres
- needs: increased coordination for a mapping schedule

TODD:

- NPS mapping initiated the effort. Fine scale mapping
- Developed national veg classification (FGDC) - quantitative based on field data - floristically based
- DPR Anza Borrego pilot demonstrated methodology (alliance/series level classification). based on air photos and random field veg survey plots. Relatively low-tech approach. Used in Yosemite, Pt Reyes, Mojave.
- Resolutions vary depending on fund availability. (1:32K to 1:6K, Associations (species level) to alliance (midlevel) to alliance complexes). MMU from .25 acre to 10 acre.
- Refining Calif veg classification based on field work.
- Anza at (done in-house, no contracts, sci aide) - 35 cents per acre

- Yosemite (1.5 M acres, 1:15K, association level) \$1.5/acre
- Other places - about \$1/acre
- New approaches using DOQQs bring costs to 15 cents per acre?

BOR - Cent Valley mapping,

- what is habitat loss in areas where BOR dowing work. using FRAP approach. doing spectral change throughout, but field work only in BOR specific areas. Using
- DOC/DWR mapping ag crop changes. Integrated 6 other broad area data sets (CalVeg, DU wetlands, GapVeg, etc.) to create 1993 picture of veg. WHR is classification.
- Now doing spectral change update. Still need to do accuracy check.
- Intended use: USFWS issued biological opinion on federal water. FWS need to be assured of no habitat loss on or adjacent to water districts.